

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 04331 190102Z

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ACTION EA-14

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FOR: IOR/MEDIA REACTION, IEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION REPORT

1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF EDITORIAL IN JULY 18
ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CHINA NEWS UNDER HEAD "BUGS IN THE
WHITE HOUSE":
2. "PRESIDENT NIXON HAS BEEN LITERALLY SITTING ON THE
TRUTH ABOUT WATERGATE FROM THE BEGINNING.
3. "THE WHITE HOUSE WAS BUGGED IN 1971 FOR HISTORICAL
REASONS.
4. "PRESUMABLY TAPES ARE AVAILABLE OF THE CRUCIAL
CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN PRESIDENT NIXON AND HIS ADVISERS
ON THE SUBJECT OF THE WATERGATE BREAK-IN.
5. "IF PRESIDENT NIXON WISHES, HE CAN PRODUCE THIS
FACTUAL RECORD AT A PRESS CONFERENCE OR ON ANY OTHER
SUITABLE OCCASION.
6. "HE COULD REFUTE THE TESTIMONY OF JOHN DEAN, WHO

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PAGE 02 TAIPEI 04331 190102Z

HAS CHARGED THE AMERICAN CHIEF EXECUTIVE WITH INVOLVEMENT

IN THE WATERGATE COVER-UP.

7. "THE FACT THAT PRESIDENT NIXON SET UP DEVICES TO LISTEN IN ON CONVERSATIONS AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS IMPLIES THAT HE HAS NO FEAR OF HONEST HISTORY, HONESTLY RECORDED.

8. "TAPES COULD BE EDITED OR SUPPRESSED, OF COURSE. BUT ONCE HAVING BEEN MADE, THIS WOULD BE DIFFICULT. TOO MANY PEOPLE ARE INVOLVED. LIKE WATERGATE, ANY SUCH SECRET WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY COME TO THE SURFACE IN TIME.

9. "PRESIDENT NIXON HAS NEVER HAD THE LOOK OF A MAN GUILTY OF EITHER WATERGATE COMPLICITY OR INVOLVEMENT IN THE COVER-UP. HE IS TOO INTELLIGENT AND POLITICALLY ASTUTE.

10. "THE RISK OF WATERGATE DETECTION WAS COLOSSAL AND THE PROSPECTIVE GAINS OF SMALL IMPORTANCE. THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN IMMEDIATELY APPARENT TO PRESIDENT NIXON IF HE HAD HAD KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONSPIRACY BEFORE THE BREAKING AND ENTERING.

11. "HE WOULD ALSO HAVE UNDERSTOOD THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF ANY COVER-UP. THE AMERICAN SYSTEM DOESN'T WORK LIKE THAT.

12. "ONCE EVEN A SINGLE CONSPIRATOR WAS APPREHENDED, THE FACTS WERE IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

13. "PRESIDENT NIXON'S DIDN'T SPUR THE WATERGATE INVESTIGATION AT FIRST BECAUSE HE COULD NOT CONCEIVE OF WHITE HOUSE INVOLVEMENT. HOWEVER GOOD THE INTENTIONS OF THOSE AROUND HIM, HE WAS VICTIMIZED BY THEIR STUPIDITY.

14. "REVELATION OF THE WHITE HOUSE TAPINGS DID NOT HAVE TO BE MADE. PRESIDENT NIXON HIMSELF HAS ALMOST CERTAINLY AUTHORIZED TESTIMONY THAT SUCH A RECORD EXISTS. HE CAN BE EXPECTED TO USE THE TAPES TO MAKE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 TAIPEI 04331 190102Z

THE WHOLE TRUTH KNOWN TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THE WORLD."
CLARKE

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